MASON'S

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COLLECTORS'

MAGAZINE.

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LIFE SCENES IN THE EXPERIENCE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

No. 5.

"The Queer Customers."

The coin dealer is pestered with a class known as "professional beggars" to a greater extent, probably, than other store keepers, due to the tempting display of coins in his show window, conveying to the minds of the impecunious the idea that the "coin man" is possessed of huge wealth, and money can be had simply "for the asking." Little do the poor innocents know that the coin mongers display their bright and shining pieces in the window as a species of advertising bait, and that most of the attractive and glittering "double eagles" are simply *brass* "counters," or *speil markes*, coin side uppermost, while the dealer, within doors, is perhaps debating on the possibility of meeting some "promise to pay," or contriving to cover his assessments and avoid interviewing printers and exacting landlords.

We have often been amused at the remarks of "window gazers" who gather outside the coin stores, and in the simplicity of their hearts paint and picture the wealth of the coin dealer. "Oh, look at the money!" says one, "Wouldn't I like to own all that money;" when the whole contents of the window consist of, say, two hundred various sized imitation gold coins; three hundred German *tin foil* "silver" dollars; four or five hundred copper cents and half cents; a few, very few, silver pieces and the usual miscellaneous collection of foreign medals, coins and rare pieces done up to order in the highest style of electrotyphy!

Knowing this, how we have pitied and even envied some of the "better off" folks who gaze with such longing eyes and susceptible feelings into our meagre—*financially* speaking—show window.

"Jimmy," said a bright eyed urchin, addressing a companion who was earnestly gazing in our front window, not long since, "Don't yer wisht yer owned all that 'ere money?" "Oh," replied the keen eyed little fellow, "them's all 'Dummies' and 'Farthings!'" A small, but highly respectable party of ladies were collected about the window and we smiled viciously as the precocious urchin let fall the *un-*

timely but *truthful* remark which knocked the stilts of competence from under us, in the feelings and respect of the ladies, who were wont, time and again, to pause at our brilliant show window and build airy castles of wealth and independence on the strength of the coin dealer's possessions.

But what has all this to do with "Queer Customers" or "Professional Beggars?" asks the reader. Only this; that the attractive display in the window front invariably invites the beggar and the "queer customer" into the coin stores, and one of the former, or rather one we *presumed* to be the former, proved upon one occasion to be a peculiar specimen of the latter. Standing at the door, one day, we observed a crowd of boys and girls following and surrounding some object too diminutive to be observed at a distance; on came the crowd, jeering and hooting, unwashed and ragged, and to our utter astonishment the object of the mob's confusion halted directly at our door, and as the crowd scattered we observed a poorly dressed fraction of a man—a mere trunk—lifting himself along by the use of diminutive carpenter's horses, or tressles, and making an effort to enter our shop door. We stood full in the passage and called loudly for "George," our youthful assistant, to bring a 5 cent piece for this poor beggar, and handing the cripple the money, said it was the "best we could do for him, was very sorry," when he cut us short by indignantly throwing the nickel piece back into the store and remarking in an angry tone, "Is this a coin store?" We said "yes," to shorten the interview and hasten his departure, when he pulled out a big fat pocket book, laid a ten dollar greenback on the counter and said he would take that amount of medals if we were disposed to sell them to such as he. A customer! Good Heavens! Here was a go; but facing the dilemma like a hero, there being no convenient trap in the floor to slip through and no rear door to retreat from, we drove the boys from the front steps and soon had our *queer customer* engaged in looking over a promiscuous lot of medals. He selected the ten dollars' worth and lifted himself modestly, quietly out of the shop to be again followed by a crowd of rude urchins. Oh! what a lesson was that to *judge not from appearances.* Our present plan is to await the development of a visitor's wishes before we rudely snub him at the portals and get snubbed in return by a cool kindness and generosity that makes one reflect upon the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

(*To be continued.*)

NUMISMATIC COMMUNICATIONS.

BY TRI-MOUNTAIN.

No. 1.

The resumption of specie payments is an event earnestly desired by all parties, but by none more than the numismatist who aims at a full series of all the United States coins, for a collection is far from perfect unless it contains fine specimens of our coinage in the pre-

cious metals. We do not expect that the generality of collectors would attempt to gather specimens of *all* the gold coins, even could they be obtained at par, for a "small fortune" would soon be expended in the attempt; but we see no reason why a complete series of *silver* coins should not be added to nearly all the cabinets in the country.

Some of our most noted collectors now make but very little effort to obtain anything but copper cents; but with the return to a specie basis, if not before, we hope they will commence the preservation of our silver currency. Let them commence with the half dimes and dimes, and eventually they will rise until nothing short of the "almighty dollar" will satisfy them.

A row of dollars is a pretty sight to any one, and the numismatist that can exhibit sets of dollars and half dollars, in all their original beauty, has got a prize of which he may well be proud.

There are pieces among our silver coinage that are as rare, as pretty, and as valuable, as any of the copper cents, and why the latter should entirely exclude the former is a matter that we do not fully understand. It cannot be on account of the expense, for a complete set of copper cents cost more than a set of quarter dollars or of half dollars; and some of the latter are full as rare as the rarest of the cents.

The supply of *fine* cents is nearly exhausted, so far as the market is concerned, for they are nearly all in the hands of collectors who prize them for their beauty, and who cannot be persuaded to part with them. Occasionally a fine and rare piece finds its way into the market from some obscure source; but it soon joins its fellows in some cozy nook of a carefully arranged cabinet. The fair and good pieces are still plentiful enough to supply the demands of the coming hosts of young numismatists.

If we wish to preserve to history and posterity a full knowledge of the early coinage of our country, let us, then, as collectors, at once begin to save the hitherto neglected silver coins of the United States.

NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

(Continued.)

Quadrans.—A farthing.

Quadriga.—Used in reference to ancient coins or medals having on reverse chariot drawn by four horses abreast.

Quan.—Cochin China money, about 85 cents.

Quattrino.—Copper coin, $\frac{1}{3}$ of a cent.

Quinto.—Spanish money, $\frac{2}{3}$ of a cent.

Quipo.—Mexican counter.

Quodlibets.—A scattered or mixed collection arranged without order.

Rupee.—Silver coin, about 45 cents.

Real.—Egyptian coin, about $1. Spanish silver coin, 14 cents. Spanish base coin, 5 cents.

Rebellion Token.—A small metalic substitute for coin, issued during the civil war of 1861, having different mottoes and emblems referring to the war, union, etc.

Ree, Rei. Rea.—Portuguese coin, 1-10 of a cent.

Reeded Edge.—Having fine and regular crossbars on outer edge of piece similar in appearance to the edge of a cog-wheel.

Relief.—Figures standing out boldly on the surface of a coin or medal.

Re-strike.—A coin struck from obsolete dies.

Reverse.—The opposite side or less important side in designs, etc., of a piece.

Rial.—See *Real.*

Right Field.—Blank space on coin to observer's right.

Ring Dollar.—Pattern piece similar to ring cent, struck with a round hole in centre.

Rix Dollar.—German coin, 75 cents to $1.

Roasted.—Coin that has been heated to a purple color.

Rose Noble.—Ancient gold coin.

Rouble.—Russian gold or silver coin, 75 cents.

Ruba.—Egyptian silver coin, 25 cents.

Ruble.—See *Rouble.*

Ryal.—See *Real.*

(*To be continued.*)

HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM,

Life Member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal.

(*Continued.*)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

1. G. Obv.—Head of Victoria, to left, laureated. "VICTORIA : D : G : REG : NEWFOUNDLAND." Rev.—Within a beaded circle in three lines "2 | DOLLARS | 1865;" outside circle, above, "TWO HUNDRED CENTS;" below, "ONE HUNDRED PENCE." Milled edge.

2. S. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to left, laureated. "VICTORIA D : G : REG : NEWFOUNDLAND." Rev.—"20 CENTS 1865" within an ornamented and beaded circle. Milled edge.

3. S. Obv.—Same as No. 2. Rev.—do., do., "10 CENTS 1865."

4. S. Obv.—Same as No. 2. Rev.—do., do., "5 CENTS 1865."

5. C. Obv.—Bust of Victoria, to left, laureated and draped. "VICTORIA : D : REG : " Rev.—Crowned date 1865 within a beaded circle, the whole surrounded by a wreath of oak. etc. "ONE CENT NEWFOUNDLAND." Plain edge.

6. C. Obv.—Arms of Rutherford. Rev.—A fleece suspended. "R. & I. S. RUTHERFORD. ST. JOHN'S FEWFOUNDLAND."

7. C. Obv.—Same as 6, date 1841 below. Rev.—Same as 6.

8. C. Obv.—Same as 6, date 1846. Rev.—A fleece as in 6. "RUTHERFORD BROS HARBOUR GRACE NEWFOUNDLAND." The letter "H" in Harbour Grace comes immediately below the horn on fleece. In ribbon on top the first curves come immediately below letters "R R," and left end of ribbon under letter "E" in Rutherford. The right end extends towards "B" in Bros.

9. C. Obv.—Same as 8. Rev.—Same inscription, etc., but letters a little larger. "H" in Harbour Grace comes on line with the horn. The ribbon extends further to right and left, and is at a greater distance from inscription.

10. C. Obv.—Same as 8. No date. Rev.—do.

11. C. Obv.—"RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT AND FREE TRADE." Rev.—Within a circle "1860." Outside of circle "FISHERY RIGHTS FOR NEWFOUNDLAND." Edge plain.

(*To be continued.*)

GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

"A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison.*

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

(*Continued.*)

GREEK CIVIC COINS.

Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.

EUROPE.

THEBÆ.

A Bœotian buckler.

Reverse.—OA, a club with an indented square.

Some have the head of Hercules in the lion's skin on their obverse.

THESPIÆ.

Veiled head of a female, to the right.

Reverse.—OEΣ HIE∩N, a lyre within a laurel garland.—Æ.

ATHENÆ (ATTICA.)

The head of Pallas most commonly occurs on the obverses of Athenian coins. The reverses are generally an owl. Some have the full length figure of Pallas, and some with that of Jupiter with the thunderbolt.

MEGARA.

Laureated head of Apollo, to the right.

Reverse.—METAPE∩N, a lyre.—Æ.

Or MET, between two dolphins.

ÆGINA INSULA.

A tortoise or turtle.

Reverse.—An indented square, with eight compartments.—AR.

Later coins of Ægina have letters and a dolphin in one of the compartments ot the square.

(*To be continued.*)

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(*Continued.*)

Vice and immorality were greatly encouraged, no doubt, by that ever-varying currency. This I grant, yet something I hope to offer in extenuation. We cannot deny that during the Revolution laws were broken, morals debased, and the nation turned into a gambling community, which upset the fortunes of thousands, broke down trade, paralyzed industry, and scattered ruin far and wide. Our own historians have dwelt in sorrowful and emphatic terms upon those sad times; nor are the notices of foreign authors less instructive and interesting. Gordon, in his history of the Independence of the United States, says that without paper money the Americans could not have carried on the war. The public benefit of it, in that instance, will compensate, in the estimation of patriotic politicians, for the immense evils of which it has otherwise been the occasion. The tender-laws on one hand, and depreciation on the other, rendered it the bane of society. All classes were infected. It produced a rage for speculation. The mechanic, the farmer, the lawyer, the physician, the member of Congress, and even a few of the clergy, in some places, were contaminated. The morals of the people were corrupted beyond anything that could have been believed prior to the event. All ties of honor, blood, gratitude, humanity and justice were dissolved. Old debts were paid when the paper money was more than seventy for one. Brothers defrauded brothers, children parents, and parents children. Widows, orphans, and others were paid for money, lent in specie, with depreciated paper, which they were compelled to receive. A person who had been supplied with specie in the jail of Philadelphia, while the British had possession of the city, repaid it in paper at a tenth part of its value.

(*To be continued.*)

THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(*Continued.*)

When the blanks are dry a door in the end of the drum is opened, allowing them to fall into the seive, where they tumble about, the dust gradually sifting out, leaving the coin clean. To brighten them they are kept revolving for an hour, and the friction of one upon another gives them a beautiful lustre. It is in this way that pins, brass buttons and the like are polished.

They are taken from the drying drum, and heated in a large warming pan, steam pipes running under it, until Jessie would hardly hold a handful for the gift of them, though they are all double eagles. They are now ready for coinage, and that prettily painted truck is taking a couple of hundred thousand dollars to the other room for the purpose

Before examining the coining we must visit the Die Room, to learn

how the dies are made. A coin has an impression on both sides, requiring, of course, a die for each. These are made with extreme care, must be of the finest workmanship, and all exactly alike. Their manufacture is one of the most important operations in the Mint.

Look at the bas relief of Liberty on one side of a coin. It would be exceedingly difficult to design this in hard steel and of so small a size; so they first make the design in wax, probably six times as large as the coin, by which means the beautiful proportions can be obtained. From this a brass cast is taken and reduced on steel to the size of the coin by a transfer or reducing lathe. This ingenious instrument was introduced from France by Mr. Peale, who also operated it for some time.

(*To be continued.*)

COUNTERFEIT ANCIENT COINS AND MEDALS, AND THE ART OF DISTINGUISHING THEM FROM THE TRUE.

(*Continued.*)

MEDALS KNOWN TO BE MODERN IMITATIONS, BUT WHICH DERIVE A VALUE FROM THEIR MASTERLY EXECUTION.

Among these, as has already been observed, those of the Paduan stand in the first rank for masterly execution. They are so numerous that a complete series of imperial medals, of almost every metal and size, may be formed of them alone; nay, a numerous collection of medallions themselves. In France, particularly, they so swarm, and so impose upon the unknowing, that far the greater part of the coins in country cabinets, upon being brought to Paris for sale, are found to be of this stamp. A connoisseur, however, easily distinguishes them by these marks: 1. They are almost universally thinner than the ancient. 2. They are never worn nor damaged. 3. The letters are forked and modern. 4. They have either no varnish, or it is false, which is easily discerned, for it is black, greasy and shining, besides being very tender when touched with a needle or burin; while the ancient has none of these qualities and is as hard as the coin itself. 5. The sides are filed, which is discoverable by the least attention; or, they are too much smoothed by art, or bear marks of a small hammer. 6. They are always circular, which the ancient are not, especially after Trajan.

All medallions from Julius Cæsar to Hadrian are much to be suspected of this fabrication; those of the first fourteen emperors, when true, being of vast value, and only to be found in princely cabinets.

Hence, it may be observed, once for all, that the letters of the legend form the very surest test of medals. those of modern medals being always modern, while the ancient have many rude peculiarities such as the M always in this form ᴍ, and not with straight strokes; which, with many other differences, constitutes an infallible distinction.

(*To be continued.*)

ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

(*Continued.*)

RICHARD III, 1483.

Obverse.—The coins of this king resemble those of his brother, and tne legend alone distinguishes them.

Reverse.—The reverse is the same as the foregoing, but generally with a boar's head for a mint mark, the well-known badge of Richard. There are some with the mint marks of a rose and a plain cross.

Rarity.—All this king's coins are very rare, except the groat, which is less rare than the others, some groats having lately been discovered. The Canterbury penny of Richard III, CIVITAS CANTOR, supposed *unique*, sold at public sale, a short time since, for seven pounds, ten shillings. The Durham penny of the same king brought four guineas.

(*To be continued.*)

THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx, Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.

(*Continued.*)

The Sapphire in hardness comes next to the Diamond. It is one of the varieties of that genus, the silex. Its chemical composition is pure alumina crystallized. The color most commonly understood to attach to the Sapphire is blue, and therefore the poets are wont to sing of Sapphire skies. It is also found occasionally gray, white, green and yellow. In shape it is usually rhomboidal. Hauy names it the "telesie," and Bournon the "perfect corundum." Being silicious in its nature it approaches in its hardness close upon the Diamond, while, in its blue species, it is very beautiful. The deep blue Sapphire is named by the lapidaries the "male," and the pale blue the "female."

It is acted upon by neither the aeids nor the blowpipe. It is found mostly in the beds of rivers, especially in Ceylon and in the southern part of the Burman Empire.

This stone through its blue color was the emblem of heaven, the firmament, truth, constancy and fidelity. The Jewish priests wore robes and breastplates of this eolor as significative of heaven.

The Hebrew Rabbis declare this to be the stone of which the rod of Moses and the Tables of the Law received on Mount Sinai were composed. Thomas Nicols, whom we have before quoted, says (as it is useful to know) that "the Sapphire if worn by an adulterer loses its splendor, and the wearing of it quells the animal senses;" "if put into a glasse with a spider it will quickly die;" "it keepeth men ehaste, and therefore is worn by priests."

Fine specimens bring high prices. The late Mr. Hope purchased one from the Parisian Jardin des Plantes, paying therefor the considerable sum of £3000.

The French crown contains fifty-nine of these stones.

A Sapphire weighing seventy-five and half carats was sold, says Dr. Feuchtwanger, at the auction of Messrs. Rundell & Bridges, for $2465.

(*To be continued.*)

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

The Boston *American Journal of Numismatics*, No. 1, July, is at hand, just six weeks behind its publication day reminding us strongly of its predecessor and namesake, the New York *American Journal of Numismatics*, whose managers had an eccentric habit of dating the journal one month previous to its reception by subscribers. This is an unfortunate error in commencing a new publication; impressing its patrons, as it will, with the idea that the enterprise may prove to be a slow coach. A good work should not be allowed to lag, and what better work than the dissemination of numismatic and archæological intelligence? A cursory examination of the pages of the new applicant for numismatic favor satisfies us that able hands are at the helm of the Boston journal; but, there are rocks ahead, and if the publishers wish to avoid them it can readily be accomplished by confining the limits of their journal to brief articles, full of suggestive intelligence, avoiding the heavy, dull, unintelligible (to the majority of subscribers), ancient and fabulous communications which are apt to lumber up and injure a good enterprise. Not that we would depreciate the ancient land marks of science, nor derogate one iota of interest and importance attached to archæological researches; but, on the contrary, make such labors of practical use and such subjects of absorbing interest; interlarding and associating incidents and anecdotes in a happy laconic style; always attractive and interesting to the majority of readers. A dry subject should be by clever management absolved from its dryness. Numismatics embrace modern as well as ancient subjects, and this fact should always be remembered by parties assuming to cater for the entertainment or instruction of a class far too few in numbers that the majority should be slighted to entertain and enlighten the fossils and fogies always barnacling and clogging the progress of the wheels of science. The Boston journal presents a very neat and attractive appearance, with a clever introductory editorial. A variety of interesting correspondence is furnished, and a number of selected articles, making the new periodical attractive and readable. We wish our Boston contemporary the success its merits may command.

The American Antiquarian.—This is the title of a quarterly journal, issued in New York, by Charles DeF. Burns, devoted to the interests of collectors of autographs, engravings, books, etc. The *Antiquarian* is published at $1 per annum, printed on tinted paper

and is about the size of this magazine. The first or August number is full of interest, and we may safely predict a successful career for this new and ably edited periodical. Subscriptions should be sent to the publisher, No. 127 Mercer Street, New York.

THE COIN TRADE.

Upon all sides we hear the gratifying intelligence that the coin trade is steadily improving, and the coming winter will prove the correctness of our prophecy, that a fresh interest and increased value would before long mark the progress of numismatics. We do not substantiate our assertions in regard to the coming healthy movement in the coin market by empty meaningless sentences, but sustain it with evidence sufficient to satisfy the most exacting. The Boston *Numismatic Journal* makes its first appearance this month, the perfect picture of good health, strength and numismatic impetuosity, filled to overflowing with evidences of a coming activity not only in coins but in every branch of the sciences to which collectors are wedded. "*The Antiquarian*" also adds evidence of a new interest in the subjects upon which it treats. New collectors are uprising in consequence of the illustrated coin articles in one of Frank Leslie's most popular periodicals; the newspaper press of the country is dotted here and there with accounts of collections, coin sales, newly discovered pieces, and answers to correspondents forced from unwilling editors, who are daily queried by parties from every portion of the country, concerning coins, autographs, books and the kindred hobbies our friends so dearly love to ride. All this intelligence gives us renewed strength, and more firmly and proudly we buckle on the numismatic armor to fight for the good cause in behalf of science, so recently drooping its well worn banners, caused in part by the apathy of its followers. We long since advised our patrons to lay in choice pieces while the coin trade was at low ebb; and the sales of coins in the spring and summer of this year show a heavy falling off in price; a falling off not soon to occur again, judging by the present signs and prospective calculations based on the rise and fall of the coin trade and its causes. We believe the large New York coin sale of October 4 will show a decided improvement in prices compared with previous sales of the year; although, where so many coins are grouped in lots, as in this sale, it is not expected by the owners to realise full prices.

THE BOSTON AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NUMISMATICS.

All parties enquiring concerning location and price of the above journal are informed that the subscription price is $2 per annum, in advance. It contains 24 pages of matter, and we recommend our patrons to subscribe for the new periodical and lend their aid to a good work, which is in able hands, and cannot fail to give them the full worth of their money, judging by the index number which is before us. Address J. Colburn, 17 Bromfield street, Boston, Mass.

ꝗE KURIOSITI KABINET.

This is the title of a new journal to be published monthly by William P. Brown, New York. We have the first number on our desk, and after several abortive efforts to read the first page, have at last succeeded and proceed to annex a specimen :

TU OUR RIDURZ.

It iz not wiꝺout muc hezitecun, ꝺat ivn upon so smol a skel, wi entur ꝺe perilus paꝛ ov jurnalizm, but hop our taitl will straik a kord in ꝺe publik test hwic wil incur sukses. ꝗi inkrist dizair ov obtenin kuriositiz and historikal reliks iz intimetli konekted wiꝺ ꝺe progres ov sivilizecun. It iz bai a kerful egzaminecun ov ꝺe aeivments and erurz ov ꝺe past ꝺat wi me hop to impruv in ꝺe fucur.

At the first glance we accepted this lingo as Russian, another look convinced us the style was phonetic, while by a peep at the inside pages, editorial, we discover that the language is old Saxon resuscitated, and in use by the American Philological Society for several years. We hope Brother Brown will let his first effort in the line of mixed and lightning struck English suffice, for we cannot speak, nor spell correctly since reading this conglomeration of crazy alphabetical characters, which look, for all the world, as though they had been "out on a drunk," and were endeavoring to form a line of inverted fish hooks. The "Curiosity Cabinet" is devoted to postage stamps in the main; it is printed on tinted paper and contains four pages of matter. The terms are 35 cents per annum.

N. B. Our readers must not infer that the *Cabinet* is printed exclusively in distracting and confused English—not so, three pages are printed so clearly that "he who runs may read." We trust the Cabinet will have a long and successful existence.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Montreal, July 23, 1870.

Mason & Co.:—Dear Sirs.—I have lately stumbled over a "copper" which I have never met with before and I venture to ask you if you can give me any information about it, or, if worth while to ask the question through your "Maga.," if in time for the August number:—

Size, rather larger than a halfpenny, say, as large as the George III halfpenny of 1799, known as the Boulton halfpenny.

Obverse, a garter, with the motto, "Honi soit qui mal y pense," raised on the garter, the garter surmounted by a crown, in the centre a crescent, above "Esperance, the word divided by the crown, thus, "Espe ⌣ rance."

Reverse, "A Boundary Token."

Edge plain. No date.

I have shown it to my friends here, who, like myself, have not the pleasure of an acquaintanceship with it. Further, one of my comrades has unearthed a "variety" of our Bank of Upper Canada

Penny Token, within the last few weeks. It bears the date 1854r, whilst that ordinarily in circulation is 1854, they are rare beyond a doubt, as only three or four have been seen, and we do not yet know if this variety is to be met with in the halfpenny of the same date. 1854r instead of 1854. I take this opportunity of enclosing a five cent and ten cent silver piece of our new issue, which I ask you to accept as a goodwill token, from,

Dear sir, yours, truly, H. M.

[The "Boundary Token" we believe to be an ordinary English token, of which many varieties were issued in Great Britain, 1786 to 1799. The crossed 4 variety of the Canadian Bank Token, 1854, is new to us. Many thanks for the little silver pieces, new issues of the Dominion. Hope to reciprocate the favor when an opportunity serves. Ed.]

NEW YORK COIN SALE.

The sale of the Fewsmith Cabinet of Coins to take place on Tuesday, October 4, at Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co.'s, Auction Rooms, New York, will be an interesting event. Great interest is manifested to know the result of this large sale of coins, as it is expected that the prices obtained for coins will, in a measure, govern the coin trade for 1870 and 1871, while the catalogue will stand as a sort of guide for future numismatic operations among collectors. We have received a number of communications from various cities in the United States making enquiries in regard to certain pieces, and many of the writers express an intention of attending the sale. We hope to see a large audience present when the sale takes place, and take the present opportunity to say there is no limit to the pieces. Every coin is to be sold, let the price be large or small. A few catalogues yet remain for those not supplied.

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. M., MONTREAL.—Have mailed two copies of the Coin Sale catalogue October 4, as per request.

C. C., BOSTON.—Your communication is a seasonable one, and we look for more of the same sort. Catalogues of sale forwarded for distribution.

A. W. F., SYRACUSE.—Sent you a mixed lot of coins on 11th ult. Please report when more are wanted.

THOMAS H., BROOKLYN.—The address of the American Journal of Numismatics is 17 Bromfield street, Boston. Send your two dollars to care of Jeremiah Colburn, and you will get the Journal for one year. Coin Sale catalogue forwarded as per request.

G. F. MCINTIRE, NEW ORLEANS.—Half dollars, strictly uncirculated, sharp and bright, of dates prior to 1812, are worth a good premium; common dates, in ordinary condition, worth only the intrinsic value, premium on gold added. The specimen rubbings you send us are from Roman and German coins, worth as ancients 10 cents each.

B. B. R., MORTONVILLE.—Your letter was crowded out last month. We are not in want of any of the pieces you enumerate—poor stock just now. Send us some rare American coins, or good United States Cents prior to 1814 in date.

T. E. B., BOSTON.—Catalogues sent C. C. for distribution. Will send you an extra one, although the number issued is very limited.

E. B. VREELAND, WINCHESTER.—Send your stamps on approval, and fix the price before sending. You were an early patron to our publication, but neglected the 4th volume. We send you the present number to save letter writing.

D. HULICK, YORK.—Catalogue sent as per request.

J. M. TILTON, JACKSON, O.—We have parted with the business cards you name, but will keep a lookout for them. Sale catalogue and Magazine sent.

C. SPIERS, VISALIA, CAL.—Mailed you the catalogue of sale of coins in New York, Oct 4. You will find therein every coin you have enumerated, even the 1794 dollar. You can send your bids to us or to Mr. Cogan, just as you prefer. Cannot send coins to you only as we proposed in our last letter.

WILLIE HUNT, CAZENOVIA.—Stamp Sale catalogue sent on 25th ult. Send your bids to either of the names on front page of catalogue. Scott's two dollar and a half Stamp Album is just what you want.

O. A. J., LANSING.—The 1793 Cent when in very fine condition is valuable, but there are other U. S. Cents worth far more when in very fine condition; viz.: Jefferson Head 1795, 1899 and 1804.

C. R. S., MORTONVILLE.—Catalogues of Coin and Stamp Sales mailed.

R. P. N., NORWICH, ENGLAND.—Hope you will receive the catalogues in time.

Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

New York Journal of Philately.—This neat publication comes to us this month filled with an unusually large supply of readable items. An interesting article on the "Russian Locals" is given, with the addition of cuts of various issues, printed in colors. Another chapter of "The Chronological System" follows; then a couple of pages on the "Provisional Confederates." "Newly Issued Stamps" is fully illustrated in colors, and the new U. S. envelopes described. The balance of this month's issue is made up of Reviews, Exchange Table, Clippings and Correspondence; making a varied and interesting number. The publishers announce their determination to change the journal from a *monthly* to a *weekly* issue—the first number in the new form to appear on the 3d inst.

The Curiosity Cabinet, New York.—For particulars concerning this new applicant for philatelic favor see another article in this number under the above head.

The Philatelist, Bath, England.—The contents of the August number of this monthly are, as usual, full of interest. "The Envelopes of Germany" form a decided acquisition to our stock of knowledge upon this subject, so well handled by "A Parisian Collector." We have taken the liberty to transfer to the pages of our magazine a portion of article entitled "Recent and Undescribed Emissions," which are given in all their attractive detail by a capable author. We have not space for a thorough review of the *Philatelist* this month, and can only advise our readers to subscribe if they wish to read and profit by a well-posted stamp journal.

The Stamp Collectors' Magazine, Bath, England.—The August issue of our over-sensitive, over-the-water friends, Alfred Smith & Co., is at hand, and is vastly improved owing to the absence of their usual slurs on the characteristics of Americans. A few wholesome lessons on good behavior, read to the publishers by the American stamp publications, has had a purifying effect, and the Stamp Collectors' Magazine looks cheerful, healthy and blooming per consequence. We can now throw aside prejudice and recommend our distant cousins' magazine to the patronage of our readers. The August number is a prime issue, which we have read with great satisfaction, and only regret that our limited pages prevent the use of a number of capital articles that scintilate with philatelic brightness and make one's love for the science all the stronger and happier.

A FEW WORDS WITH OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

We have mailed each of our subscribers a copy of the catalogue of the postage stamp sale, coming off, in New York, the 8th inst. Our advice to coin collectors who have not given philately any special attention, and who wish to keep pace with the march of improvement, is to commence a small collection of postage stamps. From personal experience, we know the indifference with which novices look upon this growing branch or offshoot of science. It was with great reluctance we entered into the stamp trade, looking upon it as a trifling, piddling sort of juvenile pastime, unworthy an adult's serious attention; but as we gained a more intimate knowledge of the novelty, we discovered that there was more in stamps than our philosophical brains ever dreamed of. New fields of learning were opened to us, and a new method of impressing the mind with geographical, statistical and historical facts. We observed, also, that stamp collecting was not confined to the juvenile portion of the community, but there were older and abler heads engaged in the fascinating study. Gentlemen and ladies of learning and wealth had given it earnest attention; parents had seized upon it as the stepping stone to aid and elevate their children in the scale of intelligence, and protect them from evil associations and idleness. We found, also, that a more intimate

knowledge of foreign coins could be gained by the study of foreign postage stamps, and after these discoveries we became infatuated with philately. With these facts in view, we earnestly advise our readers to commence the pleasing and profitable pursuit at once. Our stamp sale furnishes a fine opportunity at small expense for an indulgence in this useful luxury. To those who are not inclined to follow these hints, we ask the favor to hand the catalogue to some philateiist in their locality. By so doing they will confer a favor we shall appreciate fully. Bids at the coming sale, for any amount, however small, thankfully received.

ACTIVITY OF THE STAMP TRADE.

The coming winter will undoubtedly exhibit a vast increase in the number of postage stamp collectors in America. Premising our argument on the additional number of new journals devoted to this fascinating and useful study, and the increase of dealers throughout our country, we can safely assert that the trade in stamps will be doubled, if not trebled, within a twelvemonth. The New York *American Journal of Philately*, anticipating this fact, has announced that on and after the third of the present month, that publication will be issued as a *weekly*, making its welcome appearance every Saturday, at 4 P. M. In addition to this healthy and no doubt profitable change on the part of Messrs. Scott & Co,. we have a rival to the New York journal in the first issue of a monthly quarto, entitled *The Curiosity Cabinet*, published in New York, and devoted to the subject of philately, etc.

Two large postage stamp sales by auction are announced to take place in New York, and everywhere, upon all sides, we hear of an activity and preparation which conclusively proves an awakened interest in philatelic matters.

POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

We shall offer, at public sale, at the auction rooms of Leavitt, Strebeigh & Co., New York, on September the 8th inst., at $6\frac{1}{2}$ P. M., by catalogue, a large quantity of foreign and American postage stamps. This catalogue embraces nearly five hundred lots, arranged to suit the wants of the collector or dealer. Many extremely rare stamps will be found in the collection; also, many lots assorted as to variety and rarity. All the stamps are clean and perfect. Bidders are requested to give early notice of their wants. Ten per cent. commission charged on all sums under five dollars; over five dollars, five per cent. commission will be charged. Catalogues can be had by application to auctioneers, or at this office. See cover for advertisement.

NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES.—*Seven Cent Adhesive Stamp.* This *long promised* "new issue" has not yet publicly appeared. Various con-

jectures have been given to the public in reference to the design of the new comer. "Head of Steuben," says one; "Head of Lafayette," cries another; and now it is decided that the bust of our late lamented statesman Edwin M. Stanton, is to add beauty to the *odd seven*. What puzzles us deucedly is how any stamp of the size now in use can have a presentable profile likeness of Stanton, when his huge whiskers must be given without abbreviation to make the picture a *fac simile* of our departed hero. The envelope stamps are nearly all ready for distribution. Already the lower values are on the market. The 1 cent and 2 cent of the new issue are intended to serve a double purpose, viz.: newspaper wrappers and letter envelopes. The following is a list of the set:

1 cent,	blue.	10 cents,	brown.
2 cents,	brown.	12 "	light purple.
3 "	green.	15 "	orange.
6 "	red.	24 "	dark purple.
7 "	probably lilac.	30 "	black.

90 cents, carmine.

The envelope stamps are oval in shape, the bust and values corresponding with the adhesive stamps of present issue, and in uniformity and finish they compare favorably with their brother issues.

The new 2 cent newspaper stamp has been issued by our government; also, the new 3 cent envelope stamp. The former is oval, head of Jackson facing left, "U. S. Postage" at top, "Two cents" at foot, figure 2 on each side of centre; color, dark brown. The 3 cent envelope stamp is green, with head of Washington, in other respects, excepting value, similar to the 2 cent issue. Other envelope stamps of this series will soon follow, all bearing the same designed oval frame, differing only in bust, value and color. We learn from a private source that the American Bank Note Company is now at work on a new series of envelopes, differing greatly from the aforementioned and all others that have preceded them. This set of envelopes will be printed from steel plates, not embossed. The designs of the 1 cent issue resemble the 10 cent 1869 issue, adhesive, with the addition of flags upon either side, cannon, guns, etc. at base, scroll at top; the color is black, and the stamp, though similar to the 10 cent orange, is larger and much handsomer in general appearance.

PRICED CATALOGUE OF NEW YORK POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

May 28, 1870.

(Continued.)

100	2 centesimi, 1870, Italy, uncancelled.	$1 50.
100	1 centesimi, 1870, Italy, uncancelled.	$1 20.
150	3 kreuzer, 1868, Prussia, uncancelled.	$2 25.
25	1 cent, U. S. newspaper wrappers, uncancelled.	60 cents.
1	18 kreuzer, Baden, envelope cut round.	$1.
1	U. S. Carriers stamp, orange, head of Franklin.	$4 50.

LARGE COIN SALE.

THE CELEBRATED FEWSMITH CABINET OF

COINS, MEDALS, ETC.,

CONTAINING NEARLY 3000 LOTS, OR ABOUT 5000 PIECES,

INCLUDING MANY RARE AND VALUABLE SPECIMENS, WILL BE OFFERED AT PUBLIC SALE, BY CATALOGUE, AT THE ROOMS OF

LEAVITT, STREBEIGH & CO.,

CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK,

ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 4, 1870, AT 5½ O'CLOCK,

TO CONTINUE FOUR DAYS.

Orders promptly executed by Henry Cook, No. 74 Friend Street, Boston; Edward Cogan, No. 95 William Street, New York; A. C. Kline and Mason & Co., Philadelphia; and by the Auctioneers.

Catalogues ready about August 15.

MASON & CO.'S FIRST POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

AT THE AUCTION ROOMS OF

LEAVITT, STREBEIGH & CO.,

CLINTON HALL, ASTOR PLACE, NEW YORK,

SEPTEMBER 8, 1870.

This sale, by catalogues, will embrace many very rare foreign stamps, used and unused; also, lots (assorted) for dealers' uses.

Purchases made at the sale for bidders, by the Auctioneers and J. W. Scott & Co., 34 Liberty Street, New York; A. C. Kline, L. W. Durbin and Mason & Co., Philadelphia.

COINS FOR SALE.

1791 Washington Cent, good,	$ 5 00	Vermont Cent, good,	$ 1 00
1793 Wreath " "	3 00	1794 Silver Dollar, good,	50 00
1793 Link " "	4 00	1796 Silver Dime, very good,	6 00
1793 Liberty Cap " "	10 00	1794 Silver Half Dollar, v. good,	2 50
1799 & 1804 " poor,	2 00	1795 " "	1 25
1799 & 1804 " good,	5 00	1796 " Quarter " "	2 00
1809 " "	1 00	1856 Pattern Nickel Cent, proof,	1 05
Rosa Americana Penny, "	3 50	1858 Nickel set of 12,	12 00
" Half Penny, good,	3 00	1858 " Indian Head,	1 00
Pine Tree Shilling, good,	5 00	1787 & 1788 Mass. Half Cents,	1 50
" Sixpence, "	4 00	1787 & 1788 " v. fine	2 00
" Threepence, good,	5 00	N. J., Con., Va. Wood, fair, each,	25
" Twopence, very good,	6 00	1859 Nickel, 1858 reverse,	1 00
Liberty and Security, 1795, "	3 50	1859 " 1860 "	1 00
" large, "	2 00	1850 to 1857 Cents, v. fine, each,	50
Louisiana Cent, R. F., "	1 00	1840 to 1849 " " "	1 00
" 1722, "	2 00	1830 to 1839 " " "	1 50
" 1721, "	3 00	1820 to 1829 " " "	2 00
Virginia Cent, 1773, "	1 00	1794 to 1814 " " "	3 00
" very fine,	3 50	1817, 1818 & 1819, uncir., "	1 00
N. Y. (Nova Eborac), good,	1 50	Medals, Autographs, &c. &c.	

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.